Modernisation of drains in Andhra Pradesh

2391. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted proposals in their memorandum for modernisation of four drains in the coastal areas at an estimated cost of Rs. 111.00 crores to improve irrigation drains as coastal areas suffer a major problem of poor drainage as a result of which a large thickly habitated areas remain submerged whenever heavy rains and floods occur;

(b) whether Government have taken any action in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) do not arise.

Inter-linking of major rivers

2392. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in regard to inter-linking of major rivers in the country and to provide water to water deficient regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have chalked out any time-frame in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether feasibility reports for linking rivers have been completed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) to (f) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) and Central Water Commission formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging inter-

basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas which comprises of two components, namely, Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the MOWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of NPP and to give concrete shape to it. Based on various studies conducted, NWDA has identified 30 links (16 links under Peninsular Component and 14 links under Himalayan Component) for preparing Feasibility Reports (FRs.) NWDA has completed feasibility reports for 14 links under Peninsular Rivers Development Component and two links under Himalayan Rivers Development Component. A tripartite agreement was signed among Government of India and concerned States of Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh on 25.08.2005 in respect of one priority link under Peninsular Component *Viz.* Ken-Betwa link for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR).

The time for implementation of inter-linking of rivers (ILR) programme depends upon the consensus & cooperation of the concerned States.

Irrigation projects in Tamil Nadu

2393. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of works pertaining to irrigation are lying incomplete in many States particularly in Tamil Nadu due to non-availability of requisite financial assistance;

(b) if so, the details of pending irrigation projects along with escalation cost thereof;

(c) whether any special financial assistance is being provided to these States for completion of these projects on priority basis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Irrigation is a State subject and the planning, execution, funding, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments based on their priorities. Though, financial crunch of the State Governments is cited as the main reason for delay in the completion of irrigation projects, there are other constraints